

K-573

ca. 1840-1870

Italianate Carriage House at Starkey Farms

Near Galena

Private

Although the unnamed Sassafras River neck between Woodland Creek and Dyer Creek, near Galena, began to be settled during the seventeenth century, only one building that pre-dates the twentieth century appears to survive there. With the consolidation of the entire neck into one large farming operation in the second quarter of the twentieth century, the dwellings and outbuildings of the three farms shown on nineteenth-century maps were removed. Only a mid-nineteenth century Italianate carriage house-stable remains although it has been moved and converted to a dwelling and it is not clear from which farm it came. Nonetheless, this old carriage house is significant as a rare surviving example of a refined, stylized farm outbuilding, unlike most county outbuildings which took their form from function and which were unadorned with period detail. Probably for convenience originally located nearer a dwelling than was customary for outbuildings, its low hipped roof with monitor, broad corner pilasters, and handsome bracketed cornice probably reflect the architecture of the dwelling. There is such a relationship between the Italianate dwelling and old carriage house at Brampton (K-465), near Chestertown.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Italianate Carriage House at Starkey Farms

2. Location

street & number North side Rt. 213, 1.3 miles west of Galena ___ not for publication

city, town Galena X vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	___ military	___ other: Storage

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William K. Starkey

street & number R.D. 1 telephone no.: 648-5571

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber EHP 61

street & number Cross Street folio 293

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys None

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-573

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			<u>unknown</u>

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Probably reflecting the style of the dwelling near which it originally stood, a nearly square two-story frame italianate carriage house-stable is the only old building remaining on the unnamed neck between Woodland and Dyer Creeks south of the Sassafras River and west of the town of Galena. Shortly before World War II the neck's three farms were consolidated under single ownership and the old dwellings and outbuildings demolished, to be replaced by new ones. The old carriage house was moved from an unknown location to its present site near the old James Hurtt farm shown on 1860 and 1877 maps, in the east-central part of the neck near Dyer Creek (also called Broad Oak Creek or Hendley's Creek). The carriage house was then converted to a dwelling to house farm help for this large consolidated tract. A shed-roofed rear wing was added to the main hipped-roof-with monitor structure. The old carriage house is now unoccupied and use only for storage.

Now resting on a foundation of concrete blocks, the main section measures ca. 21' wide by 20' deep. The east, main-entry side is three bays wide on the first story and two bays on the second, with the openings evenly spaced on each level. The entry is in the center. The other sides are two-bay, though not now consistently with regular spacing or with an opening in each bay on each story. A ca. 10'-deep-by-15' wide shed-roofed wing was added to the rear, west wall of the old carriage house somewhat later than the move. It rests on concrete-block piers. The weatherboard of the rear wall of the main section can be seen from within this enclosed-porch-type room. Both sections are covered with horizontal lapped weatherboard with ca. 5" exposure except for a considerable portion of the main section's rear wall, where exposure is larger, and isolated additional areas where the weatherboard has been replaced. This rear wall might have contained the large-door carriage house-stable openings. At each corner there is a pair of plain pilasters 16" wide with handsome, though deteriorated, base and cap detailing. There probably was upper and lower applied, bold, composite, base trim, the lower now gone, possibly as a result of the move. The upper base trim is 3-1/2" high by 1-1/2" deep. The pilasters have a three-step corbelled cap about 6" high. About 16" lower is an intermediate with the same profile, but smaller.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-573

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1840-1870 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although the unnamed Sassafras River neck between Woodland Creek and Dyer Creek, near Galena, began to be settled during the seventeenth century, only one building that pre-dates the twentieth century appears to survive there. With the consolidation of the entire neck into one large farming operation in the second quarter of the twentieth century, the dwellings and outbuildings of the three farms shown on nineteenth-century maps were removed. Only a mid-nineteenth century italianate carriage house-stable remains although it has been moved and converted to a dwelling and it is not clear from which farm it came. Nonetheless, this old carriage house is significant as a rare surviving sample of a refined, stylized farm outbuilding, unlike most county outbuildings which took their form from function and which were unadorned with period detail. Probably for convenience originally located nearer a dwelling than was customary for outbuildings, its low hipped roof with monitor, broad corner pilasters, and handsome bracketed cornice probably reflect the architecture of the dwelling. There is such a relationship between the italianate dwelling and old carriage house at Brampton (K-465), near Chestertown.

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Martent's Map of Kent County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1860.

Quadrangle scale _____

H

PS-2746

The roof of the main section is a very shallow hip with a central square closed monitor perhaps three feet high through which an off-center chimney now protrudes. The monitor is also clad in horizontal weatherboard. Viewing it from the interior gave no indication that the monitor was ever used for ventilation, which would have been a logical reason for its construction on a carriage house-stable. However, a ventilated (even if only seasonally) monitor could have been easily modified. The pitch of the roofs is so low that the roofing material could not be seen. The rear wing's shed roof is covered with roll asphalt.

Holes in the interior wall and ceiling materials added after the move permit viewing much of the building's frame. The building was originally two-storey with heavy braced framing. Studs were 3-1/2" wide and continuous from now-deteriorated first-floor sills to second-storey wall plates. Second-storey floor joists measure 9-1/2" x 3-1/4". The second storey very likely was used for hay and other storage and may have included living space for farm help. There is no evidence that any of the interior was ever finished prior to conversion; whitewash remnants can be seen well up into the roof area. Originally there was no second-storey ceiling; the second storey was open from floor to roof. During conversion to a dwelling a ribbon was applied to the wall studs and ceiling joists laid, below original plate level. An original transverse tie beam was seen above the new ceiling approximately above the present transverse walls on the first and second storey. This may have been only a structural tie; there was no evidence seen to indicate that a wall had been below it. Because there was originally no second-storey ceiling or ceiling joists, the rafter feet rested on the wall plate, and thin lookouts were nailed to the sides of the rafter ends to create the cornice and its built-in gutter system. This is in contrast to the usual practice of the period in which the upper-storey ceiling joists were extended beyond the walls to receive the rafters (using a board plate on the joists), thereby creating the cornice. In reality this boxed cornice is very thin vertically, though it is trimmed with a deceptively deep fascia on which is a very large cyma recta crown. There is what appears to be a cyma and bevel bed molding on a deep plain frieze. The cornice is bracketed with handsome heavy sawn brackets about 30" on center.

Windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights throughout; the sash appears to date from the twentieth century, though most of the openings may be original. Probably because this structure stood relatively near the dwelling it served, the original builder may have made a conscious attempt to refine this structure on the exterior, making it similar in style to the nearby dwelling and as unlike a farm outbuilding as possible.

The first-storey interior now has a side-hall plan, with hall and quarter-turn stair in the southeast section. A living room, with the central main entry, is in the southwest. A shallow kitchen spans the width of the building main section at the rear. It could not be determined whether this transverse partition wall reflects original construction. On the second storey the stair opens onto a small five-sided hall with access to a front and rear bedroom and a rear bath. The studs near the chimney in the second-storey transverse wall appear to be twentieth-century.

Sited to the rear of a mid-twentieth-century dwelling, with several

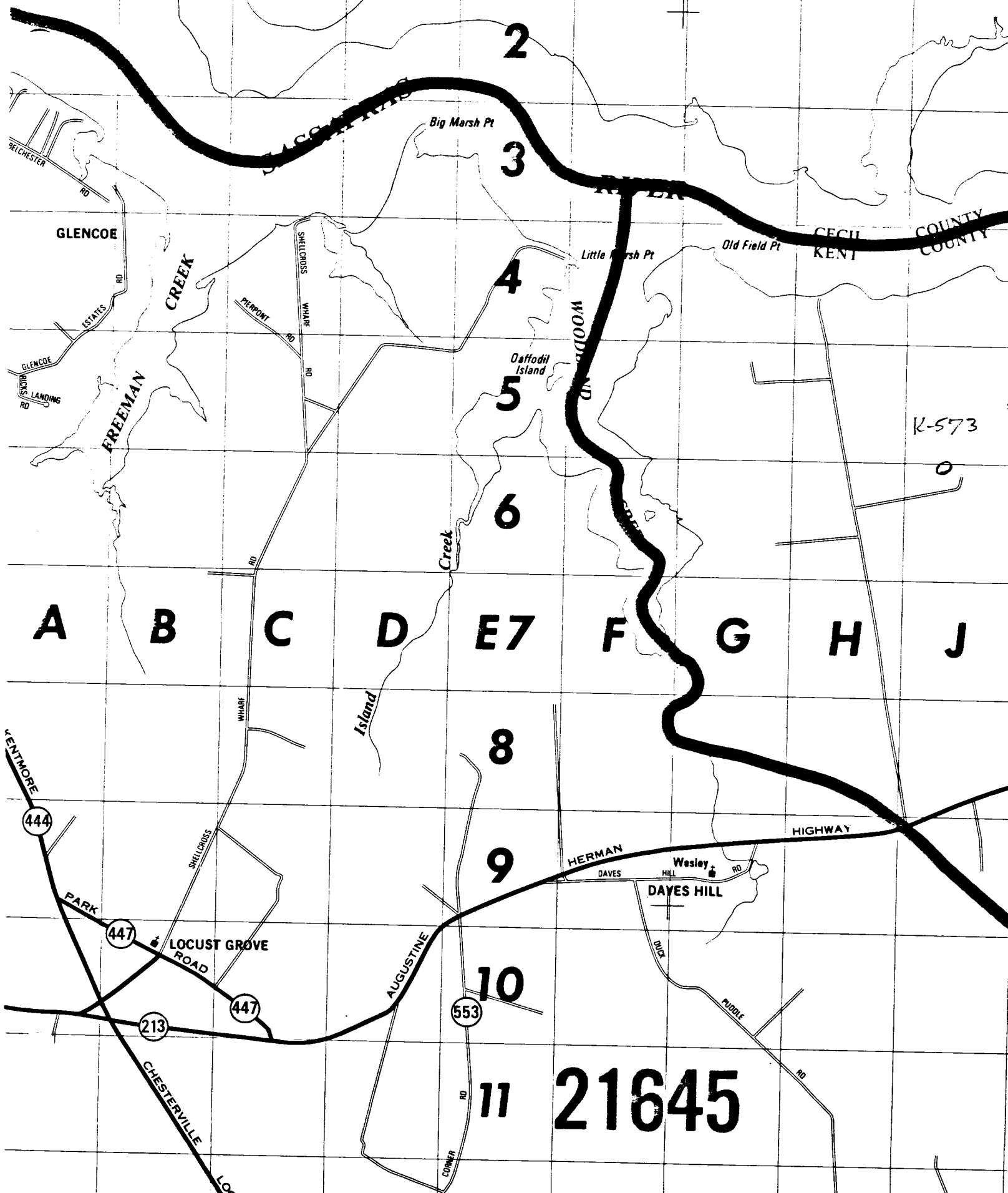
sheds also nearby, the old carriage house is near one of the vegetable processing areas for this large consolidated farm. Starting as large spinach and asparagus growers, Starkey Farms now raises spinch, various grains, and beef cattle.

In the northeastern section of the neck, near the mouth of Dyer's Creek on the Sassafras River, oyster-shell middens have been noted by the farm's owners. The 1860 and 1877 Kent County maps show this as the vicinity from which American militia in May, 1813 are thought to have fired at the British heading up the river in barges to intimidate Georgetown and Fredericktown. However, the maps state the date incorrectly, and the actual site may have been across the creek to the east, at Dyer's Point (also called Pearce's Point), where earthworks formerly were visible. Or the American forces may have been divided. The militia was reported to have fled after heavy British fire, which may have included the use of rockets. At the base of the neck, in the northwest quadrant formed by the intersection of the long, private neck lane with Route 213, gravel has been removed from a pit in which four graves with bones were found when digging.

In the northwestern sector of the neck, on the high ground overlooking a low field and Old Field Point on the river, there is still some evidence of what is referred to as the "manor house" that was located there. There are planted specimen trees and shrubs (including an old privet hedge), scattered roofing slates, the remains of an old ice house, an old well, and a concrete path, as well as concrete gate posts leading to this former dwelling area. On the 1877 atlas map of Kent County, this farmhouse is shown as belonging to R. W. L. Rasin. The farm seems to have been called Old Field Point Farm, either for an old tobacco field or after the Oldfield family, early settlers in Kent and Cecil counties. Considerably to the southwest of this site near Woodland Creek, in a clump of trees that was still planted in fruit trees as late as the middle twentieth century, is an old family burial ground that was formerly surrounded by a quite high fieldstone wall since reduced in height. In it are stones bearing the names Wilson, Rasin, Ringgold and Heighe with stone dates from the early to middle nineteenth century. Numerous unmarked field stones are also within the enclosure, perhaps to designate slave graves.

The third farm once located on the neck now entirely under the ownership of Starkey Farms was known for a long period as the Spencer Farm. George W. Spencer is shown on the 1860 map and the 1877 atlas map as the owner. In the approximate location of the old dwelling, midway up the neck and near Woodland Creek, is a replacement dwelling built in the middle twentieth century. One enormous, long, nearby barn, built in the same period and said to be the twin of one located near the carriage house until it burned recently, is of interest. They were built to house Percheron horses used by a farm owner opposed to farm mechanization and show a degree of refinement uncommon in barns. Covered with German shiplap siding on the exterior, the interior has a first-storey ceiling and upper stall walls covered with narrow beaded board.

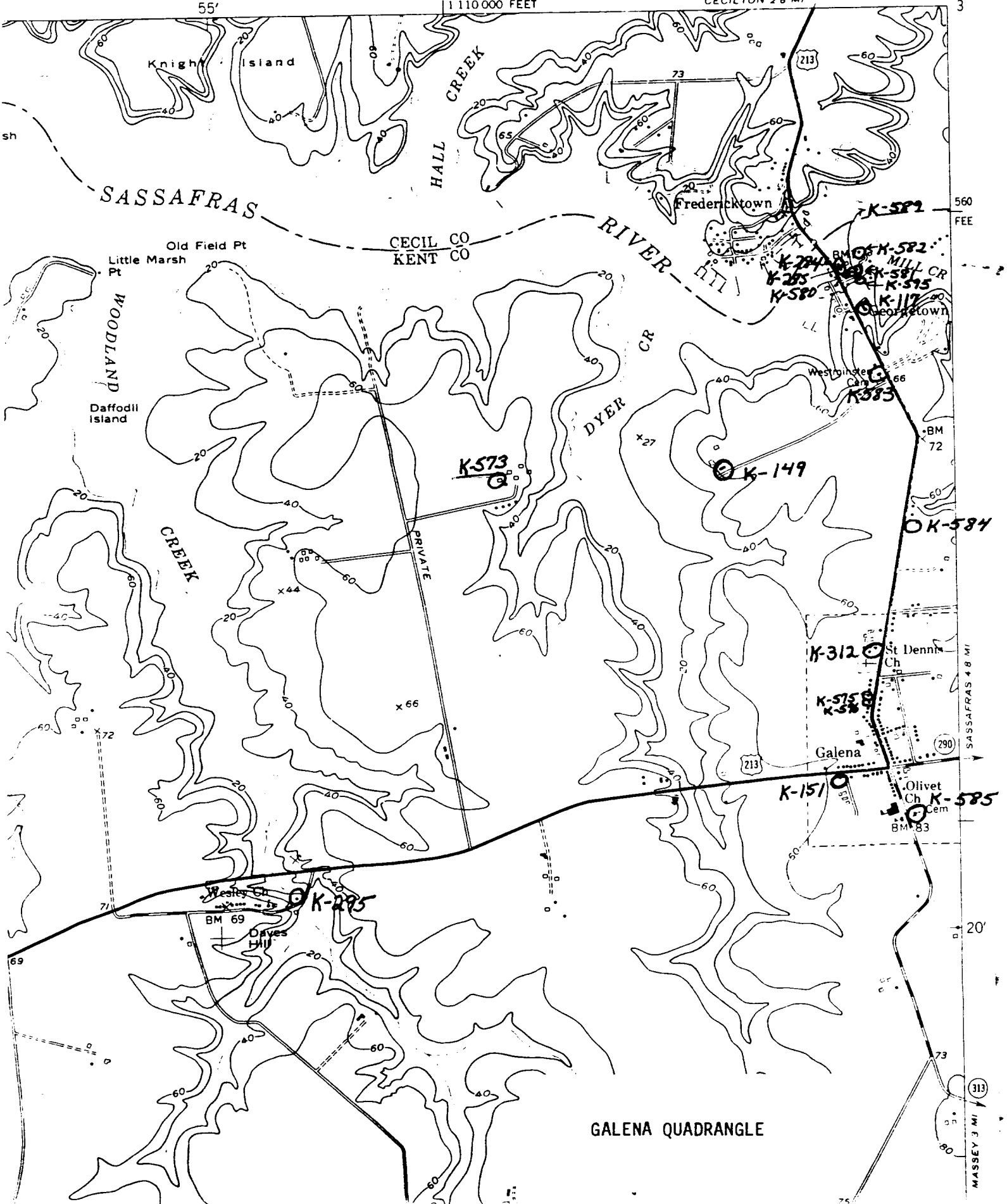
See ADC's "CECIL COUNTY, MD STREET MAP" For Continuation



21645

← 573

1:110,000 FEET



GALENA QUADRANGLE

MASSEY 3 MI



K-573

Starkey Farms Carriage House

Rt. 213, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 4/12/85

View to northeast

K573-164



K-573

Starkey Farms Carriage House

Rt. 213, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 1/12/86

View to northwest

10573-4